



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Deval L. Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tel: (617) 626-1000

Fax: (617) 626-1181

<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

Contact: Lisa Capone
(617) 626-1119
Robert Keough
(617) 626-1109

State Environmental Agencies Lend Support to Lower Neponset Community Advisory Committee

Panel meets tonight to launch discussion of restoration opportunities

BOSTON – State environmental agencies involved in projects to restore the Lower Neponset River today expressed their support for a new citizens' advisory panel convened to chart the course of future efforts. Comprising representatives from 25 key groups in Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Quincy and Milton, the Lower Neponset Community Advisory Committee holds its first meeting tonight (May 15) to begin exploring an array of river-related issues such as fishing and boating, ecological restoration, economic development, historic preservation, public health and safety, scenic vistas, public engagement, development of adjoining parklands and ongoing investigation of contaminants in river sediments, fish and water.

The Departments of Fish and Game (DFG), Environmental Protection (DEP) and Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) will provide technical assistance as the committee takes a comprehensive look at the Neponset in the context of recent state agency efforts to restore the health and vitality of the river and its watershed. With support from Senators Brian Joyce, Jack Hart, and Marian Walsh and Representative Linda Darcena Forry, and assisted by the Consensus Building Institute, a Cambridge nonprofit facilitation firm, the panel will develop recommendations that will inform future decision-making.

“This new Community Advisory Committee brings together a wide spectrum of stakeholders to exchange ideas about the next phase of the river’s restoration and revitalization,” DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin said. “All the environmental agencies involved in bringing back the Neponset welcome this opportunity to participate.”

DFG's Riverways Program recently completed an engineering feasibility study on the potential to restore the overall ecological integrity of the river, including reopening 17 miles to river herring and shad. Both species' upstream passage is currently blocked by two state-owned dams. Meanwhile, the DEP is working with Riverways to find solutions to PCB contamination in river sediments, and the DCR recently announced plans for a new Neponset Esplanade park.

The Community Advisory Committee will be assisted by a Coordinating Group comprising the city of Boston, the town of Milton, DFG, DEP, DCR, the Neponset River Watershed Association and the Lower Mills Merchant Association.

The panel kicks off its work at a meeting tonight (May 15) from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Lower Mills Library in Dorchester.

Lower Neponset River Community Advisory Committee Members:

Dorchester

Baker Square Condo Association	Dave Colton
Cedar Grove Civic Association	Ellie Spring
Dorchester Historical Society/Environmental Health Coalition	Roseanne Foley
Lower Mills Civic Association	Martha Marcucci
Lower Mills Merchants' Association	Richard O'Mara
Port Norfolk Yacht Club	Stephen White
Port Norfolk Civic Association	Marie Lyons

Hyde Park

Citizens for Preservation of Readville	Martha McDonough
East River Street Neighborhood Association	Barbara Hamilton
Fairmount Hill Neighborhood Association	Robert Vance
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association	Barbara Baxter

Mattapan

Colorado Street Civic Assn	Garreth Kincaid or designee
Mattapan Civic Improvement Association	Kelly Young
Mattapan Community Development Corp.	Michelle Scott
Mattapan Cultural Arts Development	Cassandra Cato Lewis
West Selden St. Neighborhood Association	Barbara Critchlow (or designee)

Milton

Columbine Cliffs Neighborhood Association	Hugh Stringer
Milton Hill Neighborhood Association	James Keyes
Milton Landing Condo Association	Michael Bourque
Milton Village/Central Ave. Revitalization Committee	Wendy Ingram
Milton Yacht Club	Spencer Day

Quincy

Quincy Environmental Network	Maura O'Gara
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City/Town Government (ex-officio)

City of Boston Office of Environmental & Energy Services
Town of Milton Conservation Commission

Jim Hunt
Judith Darrell Kemp

Regional

Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
Neponset River Watershed Association
Massachuset-Ponkapoag Tribal Council

Patrick Paquette
Ian Cooke
Gill Solomon

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